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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/967,108	09/28/2001	James M. Colemon	42390P12314	8096

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EXAMINER	
PHAN, JOSEPH T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2614	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/967,108	COLEMON, JAMES M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph T. Phan	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 February 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *17-27,30,31,38 and 39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *1-16,28,29,36 and 37* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *17-27,30,31,38 and 39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 17-27, 30-31, and 38-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bezner et al., Patent #6,934,377.

Regarding claims 17, 22, and 25 Bezner teaches a method, apparatus, and machine-readable medium comprising: means for receiving an incoming call at a private telephone switch through the PSTN(Public Switched Telephone Network), the incoming call being directed to one of a plurality of individual subscriber telephones that are coupled to the switch(Fig.4), and generating a call handle for the incoming call at the switch, routing the incoming call to a port of a connected call handling system, the call handling system having greeting and message storage for at least some of the plurality of individual subscriber telephones; sending the call handle to the call handling system in association with the routed incoming call(col.4 lines 5-54 or col.7 lines 30-62);

receiving a transfer of the call from the call handling system; routing the same call to a second port of the connected call handling system(412-419 of Fig.4 or col.8 lines 28-32; has several ports); send the same call handle to the call handling system in

association with the routed call(Fig.4 and col.5 lines 15-17; same call handle as Bezner's system knows it is the same call); and

sending an indication to the call handling system of whether the incoming call routed to second port has been previously handled by the call handling system in association with the routed incoming call(col.5 lines 15-17 and lines 49-55).

Regarding claim 18, Bezner teaches the method of claim 17, wherein sending the call handle comprises deriving a tone sequence for the identification, coding the tone sequence into tones and sending the tone sequence as a set of in-band signaling tones to the call handling system port(col.4 lines 5-11).

Regarding claim 19, Bezner teaches the method of claim 18, wherein the tone sequence is a DTMF tone sequence transmitted to the call handling system port over the same transmission line as the incoming call(col.4 lines 5-11).

Regarding claim 20, Bezner teaches the method of claim 17, wherein sending the call handle comprises sending an identification message through a digital interface(Fig.4).

Regarding claim 21, Bezner teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.4).

Regarding claim 23, Bezner teaches the medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions for sending the call handle comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising sending an identification message through a digital interface(Fig.4)

Regarding claim 24, Bezner teaches the medium of claim 23, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.4).

Regarding claim 26, Bezner teaches the apparatus of claim 25, wherein the interface comprises a digital interface(Fig.4).

Regarding claim 27, Bezner teaches the apparatus of claim 26, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.4)

Regarding claim 30, Bezner teaches the method of claim 17, further comprising releasing the call and, after a sufficient time, reusing the call handle for another call(col.4 lines 5-11).

Regarding claim 31, Bezner teaches the medium of claim 22, further comprising releasing the call and, after a sufficient time, reusing the call handle for another call(col.4 lines 5-11).

Regarding claims 38 and 39, Bezner teaches the method of claims 17 and 25, further comprising reusing the call handle for another call after the call has terminated(col.4 lines 5-11).

2. **Claim 17-27, 30-31, and 38-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eckhart, Patent #5,555,292.**

Regarding claims 17, 22, and 25 Eckhart teaches a method, apparatus, and machine-readable medium comprising: means for receiving an incoming call at a private telephone switch through the PSTN(Public Switched Telephone Network), the incoming

call being directed to one of a plurality of individual subscriber telephones that are coupled to the switch and generating a call handle for the incoming call at the switch, routing the incoming call to a port of a connected call handling system, the call handling system having greeting and message storage for at least some of the plurality of individual subscriber telephones sending the call handle to the call handling system in association with the routed incoming call(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22);

receiving a transfer of the call from the call handling system; routing the same call to a second port of the connected call handling system; send the same call handle to the call handling system in association with the routed call; and

sending an indication to the call handling system of whether the incoming call routed to second port has been previously handled by the call handling system in association with the routed incoming call(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 18, Eckhart teaches the method of claim 17, wherein sending the call handle comprises deriving a tone sequence for the identification, coding the tone sequence into tones and sending the tone sequence as a set of in-band signaling tones to the call handling system port(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 19, Eckhart teaches the method of claim 18, wherein the tone sequence is a DTMF tone sequence transmitted to the call handling system port over the same transmission line as the incoming call(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 20, Eckhart teaches the method of claim 17, wherein sending the call handle comprises sending an identification message through a digital

interface(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 21, Eckhart teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 23, Eckhart teaches the medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions for sending the call handle comprise instructions which, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform further operations comprising sending an identification message through a digital interface(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 24, Eckhart teaches the medium of claim 23, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 26, Eckhart teaches the apparatus of claim 25, wherein the interface comprises a digital interface(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 27, Eckhart teaches the apparatus of claim 26, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 30, Eckhart teaches the method of claim 17, further comprising releasing the call and, after a sufficient time, reusing the call handle for another call(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claim 31, Eckhart teaches the medium of claim 22, further comprising releasing the call and, after a sufficient time, reusing the call handle for another call(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Regarding claims 38 and 39, Eckhart teaches the method of claims 17 and 25, further comprising reusing the call handle for another call after the call has terminated(Fig.1-2 and col.2 lines 1-22).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-16, 28-29, and 36-37 allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **17-27, 30-31, and 38-39** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTP April 13, 2006

FAN TSANG
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